

REMARKS

Minor editorial corrections have been made to the specification. Claims 10, 12, 14 - 15, 17, 19 - 23, 25, 27 - 28, 30, and 32 - 36 have been amended. Claims 13 and 26 have been cancelled from the application without prejudice. No new matter has been introduced with these corrections or amendments, all of which are supported in the specification as originally filed. Claims 1 - 12, 14 - 25, and 27 - 39 are now in the application.

Amendments to Claims 10, 14 - 15, 17, 19 - 23, 27 - 28, 30, and 32 - 36 are directed toward correcting problems of antecedent basis. Amendments to Claims 12 and 25 are discussed below.

I. Drawing Corrections

As explained above in "Amendments to the Drawings", proposed replacement drawings are submitted herewith for Fig. 4B, Fig. 5D, and Fig. 11. In Fig. 4B, the values in the "nodes" (i.e., the letters within ellipses) were incorrect, and did not align with Fig. 4A. Accordingly, the node values "B", "C", and "D" have been rearranged. Fig. 5D is corrected in the final entry to use "4" instead of "1" as the ordinal of the parent node. In Fig. 11, the notation "*See FIG. 12*" has been added alongside Block 1120. No new matter has been introduced with these corrections.

II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Paragraph 4 of the Office Action dated January 30, 2004 (hereinafter, "the Office Action")

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states that Claims 12, 15 - 17, 19 - 21, 23 - 25, 28 - 30, and 32 - 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Java Apache Project, Cocoon, Copyright 1999, Pages 1 - 9 (hereinafter, "the Apache project"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As noted near the bottom of Page 2 of the Office Action, the Apache project does not disclose fast transformations. Instead, it refers to use of style sheets. Style sheets have been described in Applicants' specification as a prior art technique that does not adapt well to an environment requiring fast transformations. (See, for example, p. 6, lines 1 - 10 and p. 7, line 16 - p. 8, line 1.) To more clearly distinguish their claimed invention from the teachings of the Apache project, Applicants have amended independent Claims 12 and 25, as will now be discussed.

Paragraph 5 of the Office Action states that Claims 13 and 26 (*inter alia*) would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have cancelled these claims and added their limitations to independent Claims 12 and 25. (The first such limitation has been reworded to refer to document "signatures", which is the term used in Applicants' specification. See, for example, p. 29, lines 16 - 19. The second added limitation has then been reworded to align with this first limitation. An additional amendment to these claims removes "efficiently" from the preamble.) Independent Claims 12 and 25 are now deemed patentable, and dependent Claims 15 - 17, 19 - 21, 23 - 24, 28 - 30, and 32 - 37 are deemed patentably by virtue of the allowability of the independent claims from which they depend.

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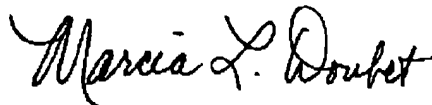
III. Allowable Subject Matter

Paragraph 5 of the Office Action states that Claims 1 - 11 are allowed, and Claims 13 - 14, 18, 22, 26 - 27, 31, and 38 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. (Check box number 7 of the Office Action Summary states that Claim 39 is also among this set of claims.) As noted above, limitations from now-cancelled Claims 13 and 26 have been added to independent Claims 12 and 25, respectively, and they are deemed patentable, along with dependent Claims 14 - 24 and 27 - 39.

IV. Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the pending rejected claims, withdrawal of all presently outstanding objections and rejections, and allowance of all remaining claims at an early date.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment: Replacement Sheets (3)

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